



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

News Release 06-51

Date: June 28, 2006

Contact: Public Affairs

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## Corps finds lessee to operate Lyons Ferry Park

**WALLA WALLA, Wash.** – The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will host a public signing of a lease contract for operation of Lyons Ferry Park near Starbuck, Wash., on the lower Snake River.

The signing event is set for 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, in the west courtyard of the District headquarters building, located at 201 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Walla Walla. The west courtyard is located on the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of the building – parking is available nearby.

The Port of Columbia, in Columbia County, will assume operation of the park with plans to open immediately for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

The park had most recently been leased to Northwest Land Management which relinquished its lease in May 2005. During the past year, the District has kept the park open with limited services while looking for a new lessee.

The Port of Columbia asked the Corps about leasing the park, which lies directly across the lower Snake River from Lyons Ferry Marina, another Corps-owned property already under lease to the Port. The Port proposed that leasing the park would compliment facilities already available to the public at the marina.

Lyons Ferry Park is located at the confluence of the Palouse and Snake rivers near present-day Starbuck, Wash. The park, situated along the historic Lewis and Clark Trail, features a freshwater shoreline and two protected bays, a swimming area, shower and concession facility, launch ramp with overnight mooring buoys, picnic facilities, a campground and RV dump station.

Popular park activities include trail walking and biking, picnicking, camping, wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting access, boating and swimming. Steelhead and salmon anglers, as well as hunters, frequently use the parks during various fishing and hunting seasons. In 2005, visitation was about 66,500.

Lyons Ferry Park first opened to the public in 1973. Historically, the location was a frequently-used Native American and Euro-American river crossing. The historic ferry was operated in an area of the park and the remnants of the cable guide system reside in the campground. The ferry is owned by the Corps and is located in an embayment near the day-use area of the park.

For more information about Walla Walla District's outdoor recreation opportunities, check out their Web site at: <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/>

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**MEDIA ADVISORY:** Print and broadcast outlets planning to attend should contact Gina Baltrusch in the Public Affairs Office at (509) 527-7020 no later than 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, to allow time to coordinate for brief interviews with key participants. Attending outlets should plan to be set up and ready in position at least 15 minutes prior to the start of this event.

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